

National Interagency Joint Apprenticeship Committee



Amendment of the 2016 National Standards of Apprenticeship

July 24, 2018

Background

In 2016 the revised National Standards of Apprenticeship were completed and released. Since that time there have been varying interpretations of portions of those Standards, along with changes to the supporting documentation on implementation of the program. In addition, the organization of the Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program (WFAP) which supports the residential academy training portion of the program has experienced changes as well. The following items were identified by the National Interagency Joint Apprenticeship Committee (NIJAC) that needed addressed:

- Credit for previous subject area course work interpretation discrepancies between units and the process for requesting approval.
- The Apprenticeship Handbook, Regional/State Coordinator & Unit Managers Guide, and the WFAP Operations Plan have been combined into one document to provide overall program direction. The references in the Standards needed updating
- A need for additional documentation of evaluators within the Competency Checklist.
- Minor wording edits that were missed with the original revision.

Timeline

The amendment to the Standards is in the process of approval with the Department Of Labor. It is anticipated the amendment will be approved within the next 4 to 6 weeks. As soon as the amendment is approved a copy of that amendment will be distributed and posted to the WFAP website. The changes in the amendment will be applied to all apprentices registered after the amendment approval date.

Key Changes

A master edit copy of the Standards showing all the changes will be maintained and will be available upon request through your Regional/State Coordinator. The following highlights some specific changes:

- All references to the Apprentice Handbook, Operations Plan, and Regional/State Coordinator & Unit Manager Guide will be changed to Management Guide. The

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Management Guide will provide specific program administration direction for all areas of the program.

- Credit for Previous Subject Area Course Work will be limited to 5 years prior to registration in WFAP and a maximum of 60 hours credit will be added to the Management Guide. A form will be added to the registration package to ensure we are meeting the Standards requirement of requesting previous coursework credit at the time of registration in the program.
- Organizational titles of the WFAP staff are updated to match the current organization chart.
- Academic standards for students found cheating have changed to “removed from the academy and the Apprenticeship Program.”
- Evaluator Information has been added to the Competency Checklist to enable the Regional Coordinators to verify the evaluator is qualified and broken internet hyperlinks are updated.

Conclusion

It is the intent of the NIJAC that this amendment to the 2016 National Standards of Apprenticeship will provide consistency throughout all units and agencies in the application of the electives coursework credit. The Management Guide will be updated for FY19 and will give specific program implementation and direction not contained in the Standards to ensure that all units have a clear understanding of the program and their roles.

After approval of the amendment any questions you may have should be directed to your Regional/State Coordinator or the WFAP Manager.

Diana VanCurler

Chair, National Interagency Joint Apprenticeship Committee